

CHANGES TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

With the publication of *Traveling Through Time: A Guide to Michigan's Historical Markers*, and the fiftieth anniversary of the historical marker program, the State Historic Preservation Office scrutinized the existing catalog of markers and decided to encourage markers concerning themes that are important in Michigan history but not reflected in the existing markers.

The changes to the program, which take effect January 1, 2006, will accomplish several things:

- 1) They will allow time for existing applications to be completed
- 2) They will encourage applicants to focus on under-represented themes
- 3) They will facilitate the processing of new applications in a timely manner.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006

No new historical marker applications will be accepted from January 1 through May 31, 2006.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2006

Marker applications that deal with the selected themes will receive priority attention.

Priority Themes

Agriculture (e.g. farm complexes and buildings related to Michigan's agricultural industry)

Civil Rights

Community Planning and Development (e.g. planned communities)

Conservation (e.g. sites related to the ecology movement)

Industry (e.g. lumber camp sites and factories)

Landscape Architecture (e.g. parks, designed cemeteries, and golf courses)

Maritime History (e.g. lighthouses, ship building sites, piers, ports, and vessels)

Resort Architecture and Tourism (e.g. summer cottage complexes and resorts, tourist cabins, early motels, restaurants, drive-ins, and attractions)

Resistance to Slavery and the Underground Railroad

In addition, certain time periods will be given priority.

Depression Era

Post World War II

Exceptional Recent Past Architecture

TIME LINE

The State Historic Preservation Office will begin accepting applications June 1, 2006.

Applications will be due at the beginning of each quarter thereafter. To be processed during a quarter, all required materials must be submitted. Feel free to contact the State Historic Preservation Office if you have questions about any aspect of the requirements. **Complete** applications received by the due date will be evaluated and drafted during the quarter, with presentation to the Michigan Historical Commission at the earliest possible meeting.

The deadlines for 2006 –2007 will be:

July 3, 2006
October 2, 2006
January 2, 2007
April 2, 2007
July 2, 2007
October 1, 2007

To be processed during the quarter, complete applications must be received by the deadline. If more complete applications come in than can be processed in one quarter, lower priority applications will be carried to the next quarter. They will then become the top priority in the next quarter.

Please note the following:

- **Incomplete** applications will be **returned** to the applicant. An incomplete application is one for which information is missing from the form itself, or for which any of the additional required items are missing.
- SHPO staff will write the marker text and send it to the applicant for review. Once the applicant approves the text, it will be presented to the Michigan Historical Commission for its consideration. The Michigan Historical Commission makes the final determination of the text.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Sponsor/applicant submits application materials
2. SHPO staff reviews materials and determines whether site qualifies for a marker
3. SHPO staff write a text and send it to applicant for review and approval
4. SHPO staff presents text to the Michigan Historical Commission
5. Commission approves, tables, or denies the request
6. Applicant is notified of decision
7. Applicant sends check
8. Marker is ordered

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

PURPOSE, CRITERIA, AND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

Historical markers inform the public about buildings, structures, and sites of interest to the public. Through the Michigan Historical Marker Program, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Historical Commission seek to identify and mark sites and subjects having historic significance. Historical markers:

- Educate the public about significant people, places, and things in Michigan history and thereby develop the public's knowledge of the importance of Michigan history and inspire them to learn more.
- Foster people's ability to make connections between extant resources and the past.
- Encourage the public to preserve historic resources indicative of Michigan history and to develop a sense of identity as Michiganders.
- Enhance cultural tourism in this state by encouraging residents and visitors to investigate Michigan history and the state's historic sites.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for a marker is determined by historic significance at the local, state, or national level, and in the case of historic resources, integrity. Integrity means that the building, structure, object, or district retains its historic character. In particular the materials and location are the same as when it was built. The following may be eligible for a Michigan Historical Marker and subsequent listing in the State Register of Historic Sites:

- a historically significant building or structure,
- a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places,
- an object (i.e. vessel, shipwreck, railroad),
- a site (i.e. cemetery, archaeological site),
- a location without historic resources associated with an important historical figure, organization, or event.

CRITERIA

The burden of proof is on the applicant to provide documentary evidence that demonstrates and substantiates that the resource or subject:

- a. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d. has yielded or is likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.

Typically structures that have been moved from their original location, properties primarily commemorative in intent, and properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years shall not be considered eligible for a Michigan Historical Marker unless they fall within the following categories:

- a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

GUIDELINES

- Properties associated with demolished buildings will not be considered until at least ten years after the demolition.
- Markers will not be erected on archaeological sites that retain research potential, in order to protect the integrity of those sites.
- In order to allow time for historical assessment, typically markers will not be considered for persons until at least twenty years after their death.
- Markers will not be considered for events until at least twenty years after they occur.

Applicants should have a commitment to preserving the historic resource that is being marked and will be expected to follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, for any modifications that must be made, in accordance with the *Michigan Historical Markers Act of 2002*. The State Historic Preservation Office is available for consultation.

Properties that no longer meet the criteria for designation due to alteration inconsistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, demolition, or removal from their original site will be removed from the State Register of Historic Sites and the marker will be returned to the State Historic Preservation Office.